Antarctica where ice is increasing outnumber the areas of decreasing ice roughly by ratio of 2:1. As per the study being conducted by the Indian Scientists in East Antarctica, the snout of the "Dakshin Gangotri Glacier" is receding at an average rate of 0.70 metre per annum. However it is difficult to quantify the ice loss from the Antarctic ice sheet as a whole, due to inter-annual variability and localized changes in the Antarctic sea ice extent.

As per Fourth Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as sea level rise of 24 to 48 centimetre is projected b the end of 21st Century. The projections include a contribution due to increased ice flow from Greenland and Antarctica, at rates equivalent to those observed for 1993-2003, but these flow rates could increase or decrease in the future.

(c) The Government has set up a network of tidal gauges all along the Indian coast, to monitor the sea level. Analysis of past tide gauge records for the Indian coastline regions gives an estimate of sea level rise of 1.29 mm/year for the last 40 years.

Further, the Government has set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May, 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and identify the measures needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts and any other matter relevant to these.

Tiger Census Report

3277. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently released tiger census report;

(b) if so, the total number of tigers at present in the country as per census report;

(c) the methodology adopted by Government to have exact number of tigers in the country;

(d) whether wildlife conservationists have ured Government to initiate steps to save tigers and also to increase their population; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The details are given at Statement-I. (*See* below).

(c) Teh recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shotcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(d) and (e) The Government has been receiving suggestions from people belonging to various walks of life, including conservationists, for tiger conservation. The steps taken by the Government to protect the tiger are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Forestoccupancy and population estimates of tiger as per therefined methodology in the country

State	Tiger km²	Tiger Numbers		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Shivalik- Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex				
Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik Gangetic	**5177**	**297**	**259**	**335**
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats landscape Complex				
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	1488		Not Assessed	
Central Indian	**48610**	**601**	**486**	**718**
Western Ghats landscape Complex				
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	**34094**	**412**	**336**	**487**
North-East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains				
Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	**4230**	**100**	**84**	**118**
Sunderbans	1586		Not Assessed	
Total Tiger Population		**1411**	**1165**	**1657**

* Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

** Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km².

Statement-II

The steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/ home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying lown annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/ family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan', addressing issues relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/fringe area).

10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

11. Enabling provisions provided in the Weldlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

National Afforestation Programme in Goa

3278. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Afforestation Programme is being implemented in the State of Goa;

(b) the essential features of the programme;

(c) the projects undertaken in the State of Goa, since the commencement of the programme; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Afforestation Programme is aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through decentralized two-tier set-up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

(c) and (d) Three FDA projects have been approved in Goa so far at a total project cost of Rs. 239.21 lakh to treat total project area of 1250 ha. through 26 Village Forest Committees under JFMCs. Subsequently the State has requested to revise these projects in light of detailed assessment of the type of area available and has submitted revised project proposals based on the actual area availability appropriate for different types of interventions and regeneration models.

Forest cover of the State of Goa

3279. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present forest cover of the State of Goa;

(b) the changes in the cover since 1961, till this date;

(c) the efforts made by Government as also by the State Government as to increase the forest cover;

(d) the method adopted to assess the forest cover; and

(e) when was the last assessment made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The forest cover of the State of Goa, as per 2005 assessment made by Forest Survey of India (FSI) is 2,164 km^2.